

FLD 231

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Rumania

REPORT NO.

TOPIC 1. Soviet and Rumanian Troops and Military Installations in Timisoara

2. Induction of the Rumanian 1931 and 1932 Classes

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 2nd half of 1951 to June 1952

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 17 July 1953

REFERENCES

25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. In July 1951, a member of the 1932 class, received from an office in Mehadia (R 23/24/Z 71), the seat of the district administration, an order (ordin de recrutare) that he report for registration. such notices of registration were usually served upon about one year before proper induction. Notice of induction was given by an induction order (ordin de incorporare).

 excess elements of inducted classes, politically unreliable individuals and persons unworthy to bear arms including the majority of the Germans were assigned to labor battalions. ¹

2. From the summer of 1951 to late June 1952, a cantonment of about ten low buildings, which was directly southwest of the Ghiroda railroad station and quartered a military labor unit, whose soldiers worked on the construction of a road running from the railroad station to the northeast. The soldiers of this unit wore dark-gray uniforms of army-cut and ski trousers with white socks and black laced shoes. The color of the collar patches was a light gray. No weapons were observed. It was known that such labor troops also had officers. These units were contemptuously referred to by the population as "Army with Shovel" (Armata cu lopata).

3. Prior to June 1952, Soviet troops were still stationed at the Timisoara (R 16/T 91) post, but were only occasionally observed in the streets. the number of Soviet troops was reduced after the spring of 1951. In May 1952, built-in Soviet AA guns and billets in tents were observed from a train in the sector southeast of the railroad line which was formed by the road to Arad (R 16/U 16) and the road to the Mehala Borough. The hospital at the west end of former Prinz Eugen Strasse had been released for civil purposes as early

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as 1951. Only limited activities were observed at the building of the former Rumanian army corps headquarters on the southern edge of Iata libertati, but one portion of the building apparently quartered a Soviet guard unit. There were no indications of the presence of a command agency.

- 25X1 4. The old former Siebenbuerger Kaserne was partially used for military purposes prior to June 1952. The southern section quartered Rumanian soldiers. The northern section included a state-run vegetable depot and a workers' home. Another four-storied barracks installation, which was stuccoed reddish-brown and quartered Rumanian recruits of an undetermined branch of service, was west of the Siebenbuerger Kaserne between this installation and the former army corps headquarters building. [] this barracks 25X1 installation was the former Hunyadi Kaserne. A medical school adjoined this installation to the south. [] all other barracks installations 25X1 of the lost quartered Soviet troops, but [] no details supporting 25X1 [] no Rumanian security troops quartered in barracks in 25X1 the city area.
- 25X1 5. [] a member of the 1931 class, was registered for the 25X1 draft in mid-January 1951 together with about 80 other members of the same class from the Fratella Borough. In about March 1951, [] 25X1 [] was inducted and assigned to a unit stationed in Stalin (R 35/X 37). He wore crossed-barrel arms insignia and a cap with a Soviet-star emblem when he was on leave in August 1951. He said that he served with a heavy AAA unit. 1
- 25X1 6. The new buildings in the Fratella Borough east of the road to Sag (R 16/T 90) included single-story brick buildings, each about 30 meters long and 10 meters wide. In August 1951, [] at the site about 40 of these 25X1 billets which fronted newly constructed streets. Construction workers said that the buildings were billets and military storage sheds. Construction activities at the site continued in August 1951. In August 1951, a new cantonment of about seven low wooden buildings for Rumanian Labor Service troops was also observed directly north of Becicherecul Mic (R 16/T 82) on the east side of the road to Biled (R 16/T 73). 25X1
7. Prior to December 1951, [] 30 to 40 Soviet AA guns with barrels, about 4 meters long, which were arranged in lines in a yard directly west of the former Imperial Austrian Army hospital. Some excavated billets also were in this yard. Several buildings north of this ordnance storage area were occupied by Soviet troops or offices. 25X1
8. Prior to late 1951, the old former Siebenbuerger Kaserne, which was gradually torn down, still quartered a small Rumanian unit and some storage sheds for cooperative stores.
9. In the summer of 1951, a fenced-in building site, about 300 meters square, at which large brick buildings were constructed under Soviet management, was on the west side of the road to Lipova (R 16/U 34), northeast of the cemetery. The purpose of this project was unidentified. In 1951, no permanently restricted area was in a forest northeast of the city. A Soviet training ground, which was surrounded with wire and was used for infantry training including record practices, was on the east side of the Lipova road opposite the Catholic and Jewish cemetery.
10. Prior to December 1951, the former constabulary billets on the south side of Bulv. Dr. Babes, formerly Schlachthaus Street, directly east of the Bega Sanitarium, quartered one or two Rumanian militia companies.

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- 25X1 11. In 1951, [REDACTED] the forest northeast of Timisoara, included a large Soviet tent camp during the maneuvers in September. A portion of the woods was off limits during this period. [REDACTED] no permanent 25X1 military installations other than the old target ranges located in the forest. In late 1951, activities continued at the Rumanian forestry school which was located in this woods and quartered about 150 trainees. The meadows northwest of the factory railroad station were crossed by trenches with combat targets and served as a Soviet troop training ground.
12. Prior to September 1951, [REDACTED] numerous small single-story 25X1 houses under construction which included about 50 completed buildings in the southern section of the so-called Mehala meadows, northwest of the center of the city. The houses were constructed by Rumanian military labor units, to whom well-paid skilled labor was assigned. The workers said that these buildings were erected on foundation walls, but had no basements, and were scheduled to serve a military purpose. The majority of the buildings looked like small apartment houses. Soviet tanks, guns, prime movers with caterpillar drive and trucks were stored in yards north and northeast of this area. The number of the tanks was estimated at 100. [REDACTED] only Rumanian soldiers at 25X1 the former Rumanian Army bakery, directly southeast of the building site and still northwest of the railroad line. This installation also served to store canned rations. 2
- 25X1 1. [REDACTED]
- 25X1 2. [REDACTED] Comment. This information confirms and supplements reports [REDACTED] 25X1 [REDACTED] Confirmation of the alleged reduction of Soviet troops (Paragraph 3 of the present report) is required. Since the headquarters and the bulk of the elements of a Soviet tank division, perhaps the 24th Tank Div, is carried in Timisoara and this division can be assumed still stationed at this post following statements covering the fall of 1951 and June 1952, it seems unlikely that the Soviet occupation should have changed essentially. The Soviets presumably were only more separated from the population.
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